

**PRAGMATIC-STYLISTIC STUDY OF ANTONYMIC PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS  
IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES****Usanov Fayzulla**

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**Abstract.** This article analyzes antonymic phraseological units in English and Uzbek from a pragmatic-stylistic perspective. The semantic features of phraseological units, their functional significance in speech, and stylistic effects expressed through opposing meanings are studied on a comparative basis. The results of the research show that antonymic phraseological units in both languages serve as an important means of increasing the expressiveness of speech.

**Keywords:** phraseology, antonymy, pragmastylistics, phraseological unit, stylistic analysis, English language, Uzbek language, semantics, expressiveness

**Introduction.** Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of human thinking and culture. Each language possesses a rich layer of phraseology, in which the worldview and life experience of a people are embodied. In particular, antonymic phraseological units serve to convey ideas more clearly and effectively by expressing opposing concepts in speech. Antonymic phraseologisms, first of all, represent the manifestation of the general phenomenon of antonymy at the phraseological level. Unlike simple lexical antonyms, they have a complex semantic structure and are often expressed through imagery and figurative meaning. Therefore, their meaning does not derive from the sum of their components but is perceived as a whole.

In English, such units are often formed on the basis of metaphorical thinking. That is, opposing meanings arise from real-life phenomena, colors, spatial perceptions, or psychological states. This reflects the abstract and generalized thinking style characteristic of the English language. Structurally, antonymic phraseological units may be expressed through the same model or through different constructions. In units based on the same model, opposition often arises through the substitution of one component. This creates parallelism and balance in speech, enhancing stylistic impact. From a pragmatic-stylistic perspective, antonymic phraseologisms are one of the most effective means of creating contrast in speech. Through them, the speaker expresses ideas more clearly, effectively, and memorably. Especially in literary and journalistic texts, such units play an important role in creating dramatic effect, contrasting images, and expressing evaluative attitudes.

In addition, antonymic phraseological units in English are often used in connection with social and cultural contexts. To fully understand their meaning, it is necessary to consider not only the language but also the worldview and culture of its speakers. Another important aspect is that such phraseologisms create certain difficulties in translation. Their figurative meanings are not always directly transferable into another language. Therefore, in translation, equivalent or functional substitutes are often used to preserve semantic correspondence.

In general, antonymic phraseological units in English occupy a special place in the system of expressive means of the language and contribute to the stylistic richness and communicative effectiveness of speech. In recent years, interest in studying phraseology from pragmatic and stylistic perspectives has been increasing. From this viewpoint, a comparative study of antonymic phraseological units in English and Uzbek is of significant scientific importance.



**Phraseological Units and the Concept of Antonymy.** Phraseological units are stable combinations whose components are structurally independent but semantically unified. They often have figurative meanings and are used as ready-made expressions in speech. Antonymy, on the other hand, is the phenomenon of linguistic units having opposite meanings. Within phraseology, antonymy is of particular importance, as illustrated by the following examples:

In Uzbek: *ko'kka ko'tarmoq – yerga urmoq*  
 In English: *keep one's head – lose one's head*

Such opposing expressions create contrast in speech and enhance its expressiveness.

**Pragmatic-Stylistic Approach and Its Importance.** Pragmastylistics studies the use of language units in real speech situations. The following factors are important in this approach:  
 communicative situation  
 speaker's intention  
 impact on the listener  
 stylistic environment

Antonymic phraseologisms demonstrate their function precisely through these aspects. For example, using opposing expressions in sharp criticism or praise intensifies the emotional tone of speech.

**Antonymic Phraseological Units in English.** In English, antonymic phraseological units form an expressive and figurative layer of the language. They create contrast in speech by expressing opposing concepts and increase clarity of thought. Such units are often the product of metaphorical thinking and are shaped by the cultural and social experience of the English people.

Antonymic phraseologisms in English are often metaphorical and abstract in nature. Their main types include:

1. Antonymy expressed through colors  
*in the black* – financial profit  
*in the red* – financial loss
2. Antonyms expressing states and situations  
*in hot water* – to be in trouble  
*out of danger* – to be safe
3. Units expressing psychological states  
*keep one's head* – to remain calm  
*lose one's head* – to panic

These units often provide concise yet meaningful expression in English speech. Antonymic phraseological units in English have various structural and semantic models and contribute to contrast, expressiveness, and imagery in speech. Most of them are metaphorical and are actively used in different spheres of human activity.

**Antonymic Phraseological Units in Uzbek.** In Uzbek, phraseological antonyms are more often based on national imagery. They are closely connected with the life and mentality of the people.



1. Figurative oppositions  
*osmon bilan yercha farq* – great difference  
*bir-biridan farqi yo 'q* – similarity
2. Emotional-expressive units  
*ko 'ngli ochiq* – sincere  
*ko 'ngli tor* – stingy
3. Action-based antonyms  
*jon kirgandek bo 'lmoq* – to become lively  
*jon chiqmoq* – to become exhausted

These units create a strong emotional impact in speech and attract the listener's attention.

**Comparative Analysis.** When comparing antonymic phraseological units in English and Uzbek, the following aspects are observed:

Similarities: high degree of imagery, dominance of figurative meaning, enhancement of speech expressiveness

Differences:  
stronger national character in Uzbek  
greater abstraction in English  
stronger emotional coloring in Uzbek

For example, the English expression *be in the dark* simply means “not to know,” while the Uzbek expression *ko 'zi ko 'r, qulog 'i kar* conveys a much stronger meaning.

**Pragmatic-Stylistic Functions of Antonymic Phraseologisms.** They perform several important functions in speech:

- Creating contrast – clearly shows opposing ideas
- Enhancing expressiveness – makes speech more vivid
- Expressing evaluation – conveys positive or negative attitudes
- Increasing impact – produces a stronger effect on the listener

Therefore, they are widely used in fiction, journalism, and everyday speech.

**Conclusion.** Antonymic phraseological units in English and Uzbek are an important layer of language, making speech more figurative, expressive, and impactful. Comparative analysis shows that although both languages share general patterns, their national and cultural features differ significantly.

The pragmatic-stylistic approach serves as an important methodological basis for revealing the real functions of these units in speech.

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